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General Assembly

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Seventieth session
Agenda item 120
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Letter dated 29 March 2016 from the President of the General Assembly to Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations

Pursuant to my letter of 25 February 2016 regarding the informal dialogues, to be held from 12 to 14 April 2016, between the members of the General Assembly and the candidates for the position of Secretary-General that have been formally presented to date in accordance with resolution 69/321 (A/70/878), I am pleased to share with you the schedule for those meetings (see annex). The schedule and relevant information will also be available at www.un.org/pga/70/sg.

Further to the details on the format for the meetings set out in the annex to the above-mentioned letter, I am also pleased to supplement and highlight some of the information regarding the organization of the meetings.

The informal dialogues will be held in accordance with established practice for informal meetings of the General Assembly, e.g. there will be no pre-established list of speakers and Member States will pose questions from their seats on a first-come, first-served basis, and General Assembly seating protocol will be observed. With a view to ensuring the efficient conduct of the meeting, I encourage Member States to pose questions in groups and to bear in mind questions already posed by others. In this context, Member States that indicate that they are speaking on behalf of groups will be given priority.

The informal dialogues will take the format of a series of two-hour segments, one for each candidate. Candidates will be invited to present an opening statement (10 minutes) to be followed by questions from Member States as set out below. I intend to group questions together, and candidates will be given the opportunity to respond to Member States' interventions at regular intervals.

To further enhance the interactive nature of the meeting, Member States are encouraged to pose short, focused questions. As previously mentioned in the annex to my letter of 25 February, Member States are strongly encouraged to limit their interventions to a maximum of two minutes; groups will be afforded three minutes. A mechanism to facilitate compliance with the time limit will be installed, and I intend to enforce this time limit strictly, in the interest of ensuring equal

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opportunities and taking a balanced approach with regard to all candidates, as well as Member States.

The meetings will be open and broadcast on the Internet, with interpretation in all official languages. A link to each webcast will be posted on the above-mentioned web page for future reference. In addition, the facilitation of a press stakeout after the informal meeting has been offered to each candidate.

In the context of transparency and inclusivity, one to two representatives from civil society will be given the floor, time permitting. Information on the process of facilitating civil society engagement with a call for questions was made available on the above-mentioned website on 26 February.

It is my sincere hope that these informal dialogues will help to ensure the appointment of the best possible candidate for the position of Secretary-General.

(*Signed*) Mogens **Lykketoft**

Annex

Schedule

Tuesday, 12 April

Morning session (9 a.m.-1 p.m.), Trusteeship Council Chamber

9 a.m.-11 a.m.	Igor Lukšić
11 a.m.-1 p.m.	Irina Bokova

Afternoon session (3 p.m.-5 p.m.), Trusteeship Council Chamber

3 p.m.-5 p.m.	António Guterres

Wednesday, 13 April

Morning session (9 a.m.-1 p.m.), Trusteeship Council Chamber

9 a.m.-11 a.m.	Danilo Türk
11 a.m.-1 p.m.	Vesna Pusić

Afternoon session (3 p.m.-5 p.m.), Trusteeship Council Chamber

3 p.m.-5 p.m.	Natalia Gherman

Thursday, 14 April

Afternoon session (3 p.m.-5 p.m.), Trusteeship Council Chamber

3 p.m.-5 p.m.	Srgjan Kerim